

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated May 31, 2006, Applicants submit the following remarks. The two-month extended deadline for filing a response falls on August 31, 2006. Applicants submit herewith a two-month Petition for Extension of Time and the appropriate fee. Therefore, Applicants believe that this response is being timely filed. Applicants believe that the fees submitted herewith are sufficient. However, in the event that Applicants are incorrect in their assumption, please charge any necessary fee to Deposit Account No. 23-2415. In view of the remarks and amendments submitted herein, Applicants believe that the Application is in condition for examination on the merits and such action is earnestly solicited.

By the above amendments, all the claims now in the application have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1. As well Claims 2-4 and appropriate sections of the Specification have been revised to recite a SEQ ID NO. consistent with the Sequence Listing previously filed in the application.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-11 and 12-36 (as presently amended). This election is with traverse, however, because both criteria for a proper requirement have not been met insofar as the consideration of Groups I-VI together would not impose an undue burden on the Examiner. Applicants respectfully note that for a restriction requirement to be proper, (i) the invention defined by the claim groups must be independent (M.P.E.P. §806.04) and distinct (M.P.E.P. §806.05); and (ii) the consideration of the groups of invention in the same application must impose a serious burden on the Examiner. *See* 35 U.S.C. §121 and M.P.E.P. §803. Applicants respectfully submit that there would be no serious burden if restriction among these groups were not required. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement among Groups I-VI is improper and should be withdrawn. Also, Applicants elect SEQ ID NO. 1 for prosecution on the merits,


CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments submitted herein, Applicants believe that the Application is in condition for examination on the merits and such action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (858) 350-2337.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 31, 2006